

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

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USCINCEUR PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

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USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, GR

SUBJECT: ATHENS PRESS REPORTS U.S. /GREEK BILATERAL

AGREEMENTS TO BE REVIEWED IN FEBRUARY

1. SUMMARY. COMMUNIST MORNING DAILY AVGHI REPORTED DECEMBER 17 THAT U.S. DIPLOMATIC OFFICIAL WITH RANK OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN EARLY FEBRUARY WILL BEGIN TALKS IN ATHENS ON REVISION OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS COVERING U.S. BASES. AVGHI ADDED THAT BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WILL ALSO DEAL WITH SIXTH FLEET HOMEPORTING FACILITIES. AFTERNOON NEWSPAPERS VRADYNI AND ATHINAIKI GAVE PRIORITY TREATMENT TO SAME NEWS STORY. END SUMMARY.

2. MORNING DAILY AVGHI REPORTED UNDER CAPTION "DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN GREECE AND U.S. REGARDING BASES - AMERICAN OFFICIAL EXPECTED" THAT DURING FIRST TWO WEEKS

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OF FEBRUARY, 1975 TALKS WILL BE SCHEDULED IN ATHENS TO

REVIEW BILATERAL AGREEMENTS COVERING U.S. BASES. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL ACCOMPANIED BY SPECIAL TECHNICAL ADVISORS WILL CONDUCT TALKS. AVGHI PROCEEDED TO DISCUSS HOMEPORTING ARRANGEMENTS, ADDING THAT ACCORDING TO FOREIGN AND GREEK DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES IN ATHENS QUESTION OF HOMEPORTING WOULD ALSO BE DISCUSSED WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN GREECE, AND U.S. AVGHI CONCLUDED THAT IN THIS CONTROVERSIAL MATTER POSITION OF EDA AND KKE (INTERIOR) IS CLEAR-- ALL FOREIGN BASES SHOULD BE DISBANDED AND REMOVED FROM GREECE.

3. AFTERNOON NEWSPAPERS VRADYNI AND ATHINAIKI REPLAYED SAME ARTICLE UNDER HEADLINES "AMERICANS ARE COMING FOR REVISION OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS - BASES AND HOMEPORTING FACILITIES" AND "TALKS CONCERNING BASES TO START SOON." VRADYNI ELABORATED THAT "DIPLOMATIC SOURCE" (NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED) PROVIDED EXCLUSIVE INFORMATION REGARDING FEBRUARY BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS ON U.S. BASES. ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL REPRESENTATIVE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY MILITARY ADVISORS FROM PENTAGON WHO WILL REVIEW BOTH NATO AND U.S. BASES IN GREECE. VRADYNI NOTED THAT DURING NEGOTIATIONS CONDUCTED WITH JUNTA BY AMERICAN ADMIRAL ZUMWALT QUESTION WHETHER U.S. NUCLEAR SUBMARINES WOULD BE PERMITTED TO ENTER GREEK PORTS DID NOT RPT NOT ARISE. VRADYNI CONCLUDED STORY WITH OBSERVATION THAT UPCOMING TALKS WOULD TAKE PLACE WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF EXISTING GOOD RELATIONS AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN GREECE AND U.S. ATHINAIKI CARRIED BRIEFER REPORT ON BACK PAGE. KUBISCH

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